



Region 12

Applicant: Michigan Works!West Central

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Partners: West Central Michigan Works! Agency

Counties Mason, Osceola, Lake, Mecosta, and Newaygo

Flexible Approach

Region 12 will be developing and implementing more specific plans for a flexible approach to the alignment of local economic development, Michigan Works!, education, and other partners. The main goal is to organize existing workforce development services into a functional model of employer-based assistance leading to improved job/retention/layoff aversion strategies. The final plan will focus on serving the needs of the area's economic base and potential growth industries much more efficiently.

The West Central MWA will be the primary convener of the planning group because of its existing ties and working relationships with the key partners. Some of the initial partners include Ferris State University, West Shore Community College, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and several intermediate school districts in the area. Partners will utilize cross training and unify services wherever possible during the planning process.

As the plans are developed, the West Central MWA and its partners will pilot their processes as much as possible in real world situations so they may have empirical evidence for further assessment and strategy development. Regular meetings and steady communication will occur between the partners for the continuous improvement and implementation of their approach.